

BOARD OF HEALTH
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Closure of Avon Walmart

May 6, 2020

The Avon Board of Health was notified this morning that the Avon Walmart will be closed while all employees will be tested for COVID-19. The store will remain closed until enough employees with negative results can return to work. This closure is effective immediately and will remain closed until there are enough employees available to reopen. During the closure, Walmart will be cleaning and sanitizing the entire store. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Board of Health. The statement from Walmart is attached.

When Walmart does open, Avon residents should continue to take every precaution to protect themselves. You must wear a mask when entering the store and try to maintain social distancing (6 feet apart).

More information about COVID-19 can be obtained by the following:

- Town of Avon website: <https://www.avon-ma.gov/home/pages/covid-19-updates>
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health: www.mass.gov/covid19
- Calling Massachusetts 2-1-1 or visiting <https://www.211info.org/corona-virus>
- United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- The CDC website is <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- DPH Epidemiology Line, 24 hours a day/7 days a week at 617-983-6800
- To get up-to-date alerts sent directly to your phone, text COVIDMA to 888-777.

We will continue to share information to ensure you are updated as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Waldron

Statement from Walmart:

“Walmart has always been a reflection of the communities it serves. During this unprecedented time across the Boston area, that reality has never been truer as we have worked to find an appropriate balance between supporting our associates and serving our customers, while battling the effects of COVID-19.

“We’ve been monitoring our stores, executing cleaning practices and bringing in third-party experts to sanitize stores while also working with local officials on additional proactive actions. Those efforts have also included voluntarily closing stores temporarily – an especially tough decision when customers are relying on us more than ever for the essential items they need.

“We have taken the impact of COVID-19 to the area, and the ongoing threat to our associates and customers, very seriously and have not hesitated to close our Abington, Quincy and Worcester stores. **With that in mind, we have decided to temporarily close our store in Avon and will once again close our store in Abington.**

“Since the temporary closure of our Abington store we have been made aware of at least one new case of COVID-19. In Avon, we’ve seen the impact in the local community, which has also been felt in our store. The nature of this virus makes it nearly impossible to track the source of anyone’s infection, so we are planning to work with health officials to review our measures, and determine additional steps, such as COVID-19 testing for associates and others who work at the store.

“As we have said, everything we’re doing is for the well-being of our associates and customers, and with the guidance of health experts. As the leader responsible for this area, I have directed my team to continue to work closely with local officials and adjust how we serve the community, keeping in mind the health and safety of our customers and associates. It’s what matters most.”

--- Eddie Bostic, Regional General Manager – Massachusetts, Walmart U.S.